

Investors' Service

The Washington Times will be glad to answer for its readers inquiries about investments in the stock market. It will give the best available information from the most authoritative sources. This service is entirely without charge, and all answers will be sent in strictest confidence. For further information, send address of the writer to the Washington Times Investors' Service, Room 100, Washington, D. C.

BATCHOLDER & SYDER COMPANY.

F. W. T.—Will you kindly advise me as to the safety of Batchelder & Syder Company's 8 per cent preferred stock at \$90 a share? Have you any facts about this company?

Answer—This company operates an extensive meat distributing business in New England, with headquarters at Boston.

Reported sales have grown from \$2,800,796 in 1911 to \$9,517,548 in 1920. Reported profits from operations during the past five years averaged over five times preferred dividend requirements.

The company is capitalized for \$1,000,000 8 per cent preferred stock, par \$100, and 15,000 shares common stock of no par value. It was incorporated twenty-one years ago.

We think the chief difficulty with this stock is its apparent lack of marketability and might not be as desirable for you as a limited preferred stock, such as United States Rubber 8 per cent preferred, or Bethlehem Steel 8 per cent preferred, or Virginia Carolina Chemical 8 per cent preferred.

DEAD STOCKS.

W. F.—I have 400 shares of Standard Petroleum Company, which was incorporated in Maine in 1903. E. R. Holden, president, I bought the stock of Mr. Holden.

I also have National Consolidated Oil Company, bought of Mr. Holden, and New England Publishing Company stock, purchased in 1905. Any report you can give on these securities will be thankfully received.

Answer—The first two stocks are worthless. This may be said of all the promotions of E. R. Holden. Holden opened an office in Broad street, New York, about twenty years ago.

Wall Street Gossip

PONDER OVER THIS.

NEW YORK, May 20.—The last real rally in the market began just as the Burlington issue was announced and terminated about the time the bonds were fairly well absorbed. The same bankers that underwrote that issue are now going to float a \$100,000,000 French loan.

AMERICAN SUMATRA CROP.

The report that the tobacco crop in the Florida-Georgia region was not just right was again in circulation yesterday.

The only basis for this report appears to be the Department of Agriculture statement issued some time ago. What the purpose of reviving it is is not known, but those closely connected with the American Sumatra Company are emphatic in their statements that their crop gives all indications of being the best on record. Recent advice received from Florida, both from disinterested tobacco men and the company's officials, all substantiate these favorable expectations. So far as the 8 per cent annual dividend is concerned, it is stated that directors do not meet until July.

All indications are that the current payment will be continued. Insiders are reported to be again buying the stock.

MEXICAN PETROLEUM SELLING.

Who is selling Mexican Petroleum? Traders generally admit they are stumped to account for the action of the stock. There is a limited floating supply. Officials of the company repeatedly have denied that Pan-American Petroleum has disposed of any of its holdings.

Yet the turnover in the issue is usually larger than that in most of the other active stocks. During the entire first hour yesterday the stock varied within a 1-point range on a fairly large turnover, which is also a sign of activity—in view of the small floating supply.

Some traders have been led to wonder whether there is something going on that no one knows about, as they do not believe the rumors of sell water would be sufficient to hold the stock down under existing conditions. In this connection there are occasional queries as to whether the stock is to be retired.

OIL IS DISCOVERED BY VICTIM OF FIRE

SPOKANE, Wash., May 20.—Flames which shot from a stove and burnt Mrs. Alfred L'Ecuier's arm when she replenished the firebox with coal which she had stored in the basement resulted in the discovery of oil seeping into the excavation beneath the L'Ecuier home, in the heart of Spokane's residential district. Several gallons of the fluid were bailed from the basement in a day, according to Mrs. L'Ecuier's account, conveyed by neighbors.

Chief supporter of the theory that an oil gusher had been discovered in the basement, also chief exponent of higher real estate values in the district, is Mrs. William Reeves, a neighbor, who claims to have seen the precious fluid in the L'Ecuier basement.

To newspaper men Mrs. L'Ecuier explained the presence of oil by stating that the oozy condition of her basement was caused by seepage from a nearby oil and gasoline service station. Some view this explanation with distrust, especially since there is said to be no service station within half a mile of the house. The fact that the L'Ecuier basement is locked to visitors and that scores have been ordered off the premises also does little to quiet rumors of an oil strike in the heart of the city.

NEWS OF ALEXANDRIA AND NEARBY VIRGINIA

Confederate Memorial Day to Be Observed Next Tuesday.

ALEXANDRIA, Va., May 20.—Confederate Memorial day will be observed here Tuesday, the anniversary of the departure of the first volunteers for the armies of Virginia. Banks and

schools will be closed, and public offices will suspend classes at noon. Exercises will take place in the afternoon, a public meeting to be held at 8:30 o'clock, the Confederate march, to lay floral wreaths on the graves of the men who fell in the lost cause. Other Confederate societies in the city will join in the procession. Senator Swanson, of Virginia, has been chosen orator for the day, and a detachment of the Alexandria Light Infantry will fire the three-volley salute over the graves. The program at the monument will include music by the citizens' band, and a vocal quartet composed of Mrs. Harrie White, Mrs. Sherman Fowler, Wilmer J. Waller and K. W. Ogden, will render selections.

The Kiwanis Club is giving a luncheon at the Westminister building this afternoon. The luncheon is being attended by a number of Kiwanians from Washington.

A meeting of the Relief Truck and Engine Company will be held at their house, on Prince street, this evening at 7:30 o'clock.

Potomac Lodge of Odd Fellows will hold a meeting at this meeting the first and second degrees of the order will be conferred on a class of candidates from Arlington Lodge.

A prayer meeting will be held at Anne Lee Memorial Home for the Aged, corner of Cameron and Fairfax streets, this afternoon. The meeting will be led by Dr. John Lee Allen, pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church.

The Dreadnaught Athletic Club will give an entertainment at their hall on next Wednesday evening. The program will include athletic sports, singing, music and refreshments.

At the Methodist Protestant Church this evening the junior club will hold a meeting for rehearsals. The Ladies' Aid Society will meet at the parsonage of that church this evening.

PUNTA SUGAR DIVIDEND.

Further selling has developed in Punta Sugar, a portion of which has been traded to a trader who is usually on the constructive side of the market.

Owing to his close affiliations to the sugar industry, he was led to believe that Punta Alegre would be obliged to pass its quarterly dividend of 2 1/2 per cent when the directors meet late next month.

Last quarter the dividend was reduced from a 4 per cent quarterly basis. The stock is of \$50 par value, and believing it had not fully discounted the unfavorable dividend action expected this trader sold and the stock declined over a point.

OTHER SUGAR STOCKS. The weakness in Punta Alegre early in the session led to renewed pessimism in regard to the sugar stocks as a group.

However, the same success met in selling Punta was not experienced in the other issues. It is felt that if any industry has gone through the worst the sugar trade has.

Those companies who have strengthened their cash position, such as Cuban cane and others are now in a position to show a satisfactory margin of profit.

With little likelihood of a renewal of the hysteria that sent the price of sugar up to record high figures a year or so ago the outlook is considerably brighter.

CHANDLER WITH NEW LOW.

Chandler Motor broke to 44 1/2, a new low price for the year, on renewed selling in anticipation of a reduction in the dividend.

The stock has been steadily declining since the rumor that the dividend would probably be reduced to a 55 or 60 annual basis, as was first reported in this column over a fortnight ago.

There is a feeling in some quarters that while there may be a reduction announced when the directors meet next month, it will only be to an 88 annual basis. This is erroneous, as those in a position to know point out that owing to the rather small amount of outstanding stock a cut of only 80 cents a share quarterly would not mean anything to the company.

public offices will be closed, and schools will suspend classes at noon. Exercises will take place in the afternoon, a public meeting to be held at 8:30 o'clock, the Confederate march, to lay floral wreaths on the graves of the men who fell in the lost cause. Other Confederate societies in the city will join in the procession. Senator Swanson, of Virginia, has been chosen orator for the day, and a detachment of the Alexandria Light Infantry will fire the three-volley salute over the graves. The program at the monument will include music by the citizens' band, and a vocal quartet composed of Mrs. Harrie White, Mrs. Sherman Fowler, Wilmer J. Waller and K. W. Ogden, will render selections.

The Kiwanis Club is giving a luncheon at the Westminister building this afternoon. The luncheon is being attended by a number of Kiwanians from Washington.

A meeting of the Relief Truck and Engine Company will be held at their house, on Prince street, this evening at 7:30 o'clock.

Potomac Lodge of Odd Fellows will hold a meeting at this meeting the first and second degrees of the order will be conferred on a class of candidates from Arlington Lodge.

A prayer meeting will be held at Anne Lee Memorial Home for the Aged, corner of Cameron and Fairfax streets, this afternoon. The meeting will be led by Dr. John Lee Allen, pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church.

The Dreadnaught Athletic Club will give an entertainment at their hall on next Wednesday evening. The program will include athletic sports, singing, music and refreshments.

At the Methodist Protestant Church this evening the junior club will hold a meeting for rehearsals. The Ladies' Aid Society will meet at the parsonage of that church this evening.

The Dreadnaught Athletic Club will give an entertainment at their hall on next Wednesday evening. The program will include athletic sports, singing, music and refreshments.

At the Methodist Protestant Church this evening the junior club will hold a meeting for rehearsals. The Ladies' Aid Society will meet at the parsonage of that church this evening.

The Dreadnaught Athletic Club will give an entertainment at their hall on next Wednesday evening. The program will include athletic sports, singing, music and refreshments.

At the Methodist Protestant Church this evening the junior club will hold a meeting for rehearsals. The Ladies' Aid Society will meet at the parsonage of that church this evening.

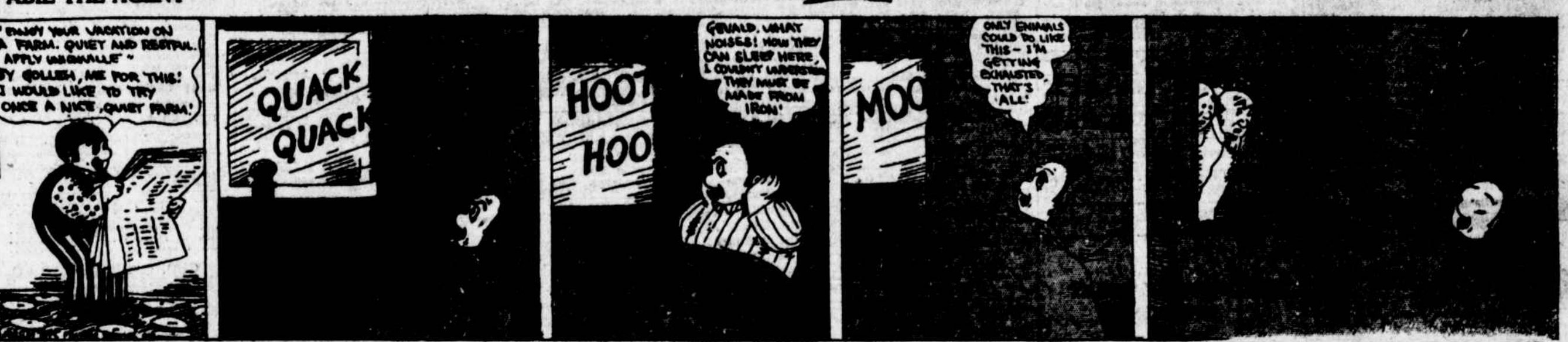
YOU CAN GET A GOOD REST JUST THINKING ABOUT A VACATION



JERRY ON THE JOB



ABIE THE AGENT



KRAZY KAT



US BOYS



HOW DO THEY DO IT?



EAGLEBEAK NEVER WEAKENS